

Please kindly enter this Amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS:

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Please cancel claims 1-14 and 25-29 without prejudice.

REMARKS

Claims 15-24 remain in the application with claims 1-14 and 25-29 having been cancelled. In accordance with paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the applicants have cancelled claims 25 and 26 because of the prior restriction requirement. Claims 1-14 were cancelled because they appear in the parent application Serial No. 09/684,129. Claims 27-29 were cancelled because of similarity to claim 17 of the '129 application.

Turning now to the double patenting rejection appearing on pages 2 and 3 of the office Action, the applicants take the position that, as outlined in MPEP §804 I, B (page 800-19), since the present application and copending U.S. Patent application Serial No. 09/684,129 are not at a stage where the provisional double patenting rejection is the only rejection remaining in the application, applicants submit that they do not need to file a terminal disclaimer at this time but can wait until the appropriate time arises in the prosecution of this and the copending application.

Turning now to the rejection of claims 2-7 and 9-14 under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention, the cancellation of claims 1-14 renders this rejection moot.

Claims 1 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Ulrich et al. in view of Stocq et al. The details for the rejections are set forth on pages 4-6 of the Office Action. As noted previously, claims 1 and 8 have been cancelled rendering the rejection moot.

Of the claims remaining in the application, independent claims 15 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The rejection of claim 15 is discussed on page 6 of the Office Action, whereas the rejection of claim 21 is discussed on pages 4-6 of the Office Action.

Considering initially claim 15, the Examiner takes the position that all of the features recited in original claim 1 are taught by the Ulrich reference with the exception of the provision of the siliconized release liner patch which the Examiner says is taught by Stocq and the magnetized indicia is taught by Warther.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 15. A careful examination of claim 15 reveals that the Ulrich reference fails to teach or suggest many of the features recited in the claim. In particular, Figures 3 through 5 of Ulrich show a construction for a laminated card assembly that is totally different than that of the presently claimed invention. In particular and with reference to claim 15, the present invention requires that there be printed information located on a front face of the carrier sheet in a card region of the sheet and oriented to be disposed on a outer surface of at least one of a front and a rear card panel of a card to be formed. In contrast, the carrier sheet 46 of Ulrich contains an ID card forming section 51 that has an ID card backing region 66 which is the only side of the card that contains printing because the opposite side 64 of the card either contains the release layer 59 or, in the embodiment of Figure

3, the adhesive layer 58. Thus, Ulrich offers no suggestion or teaching for providing the printing on at least one of a front and a rear card panel of a card to be formed.

Continuing with claim 15, the claim calls for a face patch of clear poly material immovably secured over the card region of the front face of the carrier sheet. In contrast, Ulrich teaches the use of a transparent lamination sheet 52 receiving an adhesive layer 58 which in turn is secured to a release layer 59 which in turn attaches to the back of carrier sheet 60.

Further claim 15 calls for a die cut which delineates the front and rear card panels disposed adjacent one another and extending through the face patch and the carrier sheet. In Ulrich, there are die cuts 68, 69, 70, and 71 through the carrier sheet 60 and there are different die cuts 72, 74, 76, and 78 through the transparent sheet 80. Further, the die cuts in the backing sheet 60 produce an ID card backing region 66 which is smaller in size than the adjacent regions 80b and 80f produced in the transparent lamination sheet 80. Finally, the way that the card is formed by peeling off the panels as recited in claim 15 does not find a counterpart in the Ulrich reference. In particular, as shown in Figure 4 of Ulrich, the card 66 in one embodiment may be secured through adhesive layer 58 to the ID card back covering portion 80b which can be removed along with portion 80f. After the removal, portion 80f which is transparent is folded on to the ID card backing region that has previously been secured to portion 80b in order to form the card shown in Figure 11d. This is a completely different construction than that shown in Figures 6 through 8 of the present application and claimed in claim 15.

Additionally, none of the references of record, including Ulrich teach or suggest the claimed magnetic strip panel, its orientation on the carrier sheet, and its position on the resulting

card, namely, that the back face of the magnetic strip panel is on the rear card panel as shown in Figures 10-12.

Thus, the Ulrich reference fails to teach or suggest several of the critical elements that are recited in claim 15. In that regard, it is respectfully submitted that claim 15 may no longer be rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Ulrich et al. in view of Stocq. The rejection of claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Ulrich in view of Stocq should be removed.

Claims 16-20 can trace their dependency to claim 15 and as such incorporate the limitations of that claim.

Fort these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 16-20 are likewise in condition for allowance. Further, it is respectfully submitted that claims 15-20 are neither anticipated nor made obvious by any of the references of record taken alone or in combination.

Turning now to the rejection of claim 21, applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. A careful review of claims 15 and 21 reveals that the method steps recited in claim 21 are closely related to the structure recited in claim 15 and therefore the arguments previously presented with regard to the inapplicability of Ulrich likewise apply to the method steps recited in claim 21. For this reason, it is respectfully submitted that claim 21 may no longer be rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Ulrich in view of Stocq and is in condition for allowance.

Claims 22-24 can trace their dependence to claim 21 and as such incorporate the limitations of that claim. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 22 through 24 are in condition for allowance and may no longer be rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Ulrich in view of Stocq and further in view of Warther et al.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that claims 15-24 are neither anticipated nor made obvious by any of the references of record taken alone or in combination. Finally, because of the close relationship between claim 15 and 21, the provisional double patenting rejection of claims 21-24 should be removed since the rejection is not imposed against claims 15-20.

The notation of the prior art of record and not relied upon has been noted and it is respectfully submitted that none of these references taken alone or in combination with the other applied references teach or anticipate that which the applicants regard as part of their invention as provided for in the pending claims. Thus, it now appears that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

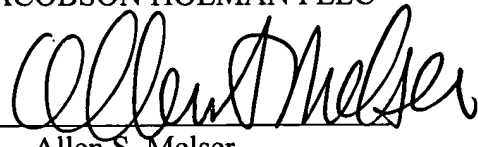
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current Amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made".

If the Examiner has any questions after reviewing this Amendment, he is cordially invited to call the undersigned attorney so that this case may receive an early notice of allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

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